

Russian



Revolution

VCE HISTORY REVOLUTIONS

UNIT 4 - THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

AOS 1 RIMLE

PARAGRAPH PRACTICE

GUIDELINES/ REVISION

- Paragraphs should open with a response or contention which addresses your main ideas.
- Points which follow in logical sequence. The sequence can either be driven by the analysis, chronology or causal (causes)
- Each of the points should have specific evidence; at least 3 or 4 knowledge points in each with some detail for each.
- Evidence is a) dates, b) terms, c) people, d) naming of movements/ parties, e) events, f) % s etc
 - a) EG of evidence August 1905 – treaty of Portsmouth
 - b) Economism, democratic centralism
 - c) Witte, Bulygin, Stolypin
 - d) Social Democrats, Socialist Revolutionaries, Union of Professional Men, soviets
 - e) Lena Goldfields, Tannenburg, July Days
 - f) Bread reaching Petrograd 1917 30%
- It is important to have a firm grip on events and then develop a strong analysis – this must move beyond description and make clear how points create a revolutionary situation; therefore there has to be a variety of words implying causation and sequence. Avoid using 'led to' constantly or leaving the 'created a revolutionary situation' to the last sentence.
- Avoid generalisations or sweeping statements: all people were starving, no one supported the tsar, the war went very badly for Russia, etc

Words implying causation: Influenced, caused created induced succumbed drove highlighted initiated instigated attributed.

Add your own.

Words implying sequence or evaluation: furthermore, consequently, further, moreover, in essence, deliberate,

Add your own.

So if we look at the past topics we can start to apply our knowledge of Russia to form paragraphs.

TOPIC. How did failure of social reforms create a revolutionary situation by 1917?

This is an issue where you need to have a **specific framework** for you answer – remember that RIMLE goes up to October so you need to sort out if you will be addressing a short time frame e.g. 1912 – 1917 or a longer timeframe for example from 1906 – 1917. Depending on the points chosen to elaborate you can legitimately do either, but you need to ensure that you do not spend substantial time on issues or events out of the RIMLE timeframe 1905 – October 1917 or that you only write to the beginning and the end e.g. start with 1905 and then leap to 1917. So you should address the entire time period but not by just writing a list or timeline of what happened in that timeframe. The alternative is to chose specific events which

illustrate points of argument within the time (sometimes the time frame is prescribed) and can be clearly linked as a causal element to build up of revolutionary situation or sometimes maybe 'revolutionary tensions. The more focussed your response the better you will be reward.

So let's try one

A good example.

By February 1917 the failure of social reforms had disenfranchised most classes in Russia and consequently undermined the position of the Tsar and his government. Despite the cancellation of redemption payments by Stolypin in 1906 as part of his appeasement of the peasants the government did not capitalise on further opportunities. His attempts to 'wager on the strong' to class of kulaks who would be obligated to the status quo for their security, had failed. Fewer than 10% of peasants had become 'separators' and the mir remained the dominant social and political forces in villages. Failure to modernise, the increase in population fed land hunger agricultural production increased a little but 2 poor harvests in 1916 and 17 led to riots in the countryside. To compound the problems faced by peasants and increase discontent and revolutionary feelings, as well as conscription into the armed forces led to many peasants discontent despite Stolypin's attempts to better their position. The social reforms offered to the proletariat freedom of assembly, speech and unions of the October Manifesto were clawed back by the repression which followed its issuing. The closure of the soviets in Moscow and St Petersburg and exiling of SRs and Bolsheviks meant that the interests of the proletariat were undefended until their causes were taken up by the liberal intelligentsia and students in 1917 as part of the groundswell against the government. The proletariat's increasing discontent can be seen in the 1912 Lena goldfields massacre and then in the increased strike activity during 1916 for example the Putilov factory of December that year. Whilst it can be argued that the circumstances of the war drove some of the poor conditions which affected the proletariat, the failure to grant considerable social reform led to their increasing political volatility by 1917. Finally the intelligentsia welcomed the provisions in the October Manifesto which could and indeed did lead to substantial social reforms by the Dumas. Through the mechanism of the 3rd Duma social reforms such as the introduction of primary education were introduced which, had the disruption of war not intervened, may have brought considerable social progress. However the intelligentsia were appalled at the failure of government leadership during the period when Nicholas left Alexandra as regent and the subsequent ministerial leapfrogging which undermined not on the stability of the country but mostly the vision of Russia progressing socially under the autocracy.

Therefore by 1917 the failure of social reform had led to substantial sectors of Russian society to openly question the viability of the autocracy and express their protest more vociferously leading to a revolutionary situation.

An example of a less successful but common approach.

Social reforms failed in Russia which led to a revolutionary situation. Firstly the peasants were still not able to farm their land as they wanted to because of taxes and when war broke out they were conscripted into the army which impacted on the harvests. Secondly because the war effort required that the army be fed first all supplies were sent to the armed forces fighting the Germans at the front and therefore the people in the countryside and cities were starving. Hoarders were harshly treated. The repression under the Prime Minister meant that no one had the opportunity to speak out and the Bolsheviks were all sent into exile. Thirdly, whilst the program of Russification was ended minority groups such as the Jews continued to be 'scape-goated' which led to ill feeling towards the government. Finally Nicholas' declaration of war brought the people behind him in patriotic enthusiasm but his control of the war front led to many disasters and he was blamed. All these things contributed to a revolutionary situation by 1917.

Less less successful

Nicholas didn't do anything for his people. In 1905 Bloody Sunday (Pipes "a bloody massacre") showed that they were revolutionary which led to the October Manifesto which promised a lot but only delivered things which middle classes wanted like the Duma and didn't produce anything for the peasants. By 1917 his failure to introduce social reform meant that on International Women's Day there was a huge crowd which had gathered to complain about the price of bread. This protest was joined by the police and when this happened Nicholas couldn't control Petrograd and was forced to resign. Therefore failure of social reform led to a revolutionary situation by 1917.

Now for a different topic

Explain how war led to a Revolutionary situation in Russia by 1917.

This is an example of a less successful response.

Firstly when war broke out in 1914 everyone supported the Tsar and Russia and there was lots of patriotic feeling and the Tsar benefited. As the war went badly (Masurian Lakes) and food, fuel and firewood became scarce people began to lose their enthusiasm. The tsar went to lead the army and left Alexandra in charge. She was helped by Rasputin who was a faith healer who healed their son of his inherited illness. Alexandra and Rasputin ruled and he had influence over the government which made things go from bad to worse; the nobles began to plot to get rid of him and in the end they did. When the war went badly the Tsar was blamed and by 1917 everyone was stirred up by the Bolsheviks and protested. Therefore by 1917 there was a revolutionary situation in Russia

Ways you could tackle this task

1. Discuss the impact of both the Russo- Japanese and WW1 on the throne.

This could be tackled through the failure in Russo Jap war to improve the army but the failure to modernise industry and leadership of the armed forces leading quickly to defeats in WW1.

A second sizeable point could be that there were signs of the armed forces moving away from the Tsar both in 1905 and by 1917.

2. Discuss the impact of WW1 on the various classes in Russia eg nobles and bureaucracy, proletariat, peasant and liberal middle classes
3. Deal with the issues which arose during each year from 1914 – 1916 and how events the war and the government impacted on the perception of the government and its leader/s -

Practice 2

How did Lenin's ideas contribute to a revolutionary situation by 1917.

For this one it's incredibly important to theme develop an analysis for your response.

- You will be given three sources (visual and/or written) to analyse, and questions on each source
- Write clearly and directly on the answer sheet; include only relevant information and ideas
- You may use short quotations in your answers, in fact you are encouraged to do so
- Be aware of the assessment criteria and make sure you have attempted to address them

Source One – revolutionary event

The following map shows the location of significant Bolshevik leaders in February 1917:



Source One - questions

1. What does this map suggest about the role of the Bolsheviks in the February Revolution?

2. Explain why so few Bolsheviks were in Russia at the time of the February Revolution.

3. Using your knowledge, explain how the Bolsheviks were able to recover from this position in February and capture power from the Provisional Government in October.

4. What are the strengths and limitations of the source for understanding why the February Revolution occurred?

Source Two – revolutionary leaders

The following document was circulated in Russia in April 1917:

1. In our attitude towards the war which, under the new Provisional Government, remains on Russia's part a predatory imperialist war owing to the capitalist nature of that government, not the slightest concession to "revolutionary defensism" is permissible.
2. The specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that the country is *passing* from the first stage of the revolution—which, owing to the insufficient class-consciousness and organisation of the proletariat, has placed power in the hands of the bourgeoisie—to its *second stage*, which must place power in the hands of the proletariat and the poorest sections of the peasants.
3. No support for the Provisional Government; the utter falsity of all its promises should be made clear. Exposure in place of the impermissible, illusion-breeding "demand" that *this* government, a government of capitalists, should cease to be an imperialist government.
4. Recognition of the fact that in most of the Soviets of Workers' Deputies our Party is in a minority, so far a small minority, as against a bloc of all the petty-bourgeois opportunist elements, from the Popular Socialists and the Socialist-Revolutionaries down to all the other socialists, who have yielded to the influence of the bourgeoisie and spread that influence among the proletariat.
5. The masses must be made to see that the Soviets of Workers' Deputies are the *only possible* form of revolutionary government, and that therefore our task is, as long as *this* government yields to the influence of the bourgeoisie, to present a patient, systematic, and persistent explanation of the errors of their tactics, an explanation especially adapted to the practical needs of the masses.

Source Two

1. Identify the name of this document and the revolutionary leader who wrote it.

2. What was the position of this leader's party, with regard to the Provisional Government, prior to the release of this document?

3. Using your knowledge, this leader's background and revolutionary activity up to April 1917.

4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this source for understanding why the Provisional Government was overthrown in October 1917?

Source Three – revolutionary ideas

The following image is the first page of a comic book, published in America in the early 1960s:



Source One - questions

1. What does this source suggest about communism as a political ideology?

2. Who are the two figures standing on the right, and how are they portrayed?

3. Using your knowledge, explain the role of Marxism in forming and shaping revolutionary ideas.

4. What are the strengths and limitations of the source for understanding the theory of communism and its contribution to the October 1917 revolution. What other perspectives might exist?

VCE HISTORY REVOLUTIONS UNIT 3 THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The Liberal view of history

The Liberal interpretation of the Russian revolution has been the dominant interpretation in the West for many decades. Whilst there is now a more modern school of interpretation of the Revolution known as the Revisionist school, the Liberal school and its arguments tend to dominate most Western interpretations. It arose with anti-Bolshevik sentiment following the surrender to the German forces in World War I and the subsequent benefits this afforded the Germans in their war efforts. Initially **Bolshevism**, not Communism, was the object of condemnation, as many believed in some of the justice principles espoused in communism. The new Russian state was in fact very popular with many 'free thinkers' or liberals such as George Bernard Shaw who travelled to Russia and reported glowingly on the social achievements of the new State. Such people became known as in a pejorative manner as "popuchakii" which means 'fellow traveller'. In Russia such people are GBS and John Reed, an American socialist journalist who was there for the period of revolution in 1917, and in China: Edgar Snow, Myrna Smedley et al.

The Cold War, following the expedient alliance of World War 2 between Russia and the Western allies, led to a fundamentally hostile Western interpretation of Marxism as aggressive and expansionist in its intent. It is in this light that the Liberal school of history arose. Its interpretations present the theories of Marx as flawed, and the role of individuals as paramount in the moulding of events. Therefore in the Russian context of liberal interpretations, Nicholas is partially at fault for the collapse of Russia tsarism, whilst Lenin and Trotsky are viewed as conniving and opportunistic political fiends. In the Liberal school of history the Russian masses are not the revolutionary force as portrayed in Soviet accounts, they are ignorant, passive and disorganised – they cannot be attributed with the overthrow and re-creation of the Russian state. They are in fact 'bit players'. The Liberal view argues that the 'masses' had no political consciousness, but were manipulated and exploited by the Bolsheviks; events such as 1905 reflect only their inability to stage a revolution, not their desire for a revolution; their demands are petty and local.

The Liberal view has been challenged since the 1990s by the Revisionist view which takes a social history approach and is a 'revision' of the two polarised interpretations of the Cold War - Liberal and Soviet. Recently the Liberal school has claimed ascendancy with the collapse of Communism or the 'morphing' of communist states, accepting capitalist economic practices; highlighting that is was not scientific or widely supported or 'inevitable'.

Such historians are Richard Pipes, L Shapiro, Lynch, Volkogonov, Conquest and Ulam.

Liberal historian Richard Pipes writes about the 1905 revolution:

The 1905 revolution substantially altered Russia's political institutions, but it left political attitudes untouched. The monarchy continued to ignore the implications of the October Manifesto and to insist that nothing had changed. Its supporters on the right and the mobs they inspired longed to punish those who had humiliated the Tsar. The socialist intelligentsia for its part was more determined than ever to exploit the demonstrated weakness of the government and press on with the next, socialist phase of revolution. The experiences of 1905 had left it more, not less, radical. The terrible weakness of the bonds holding Russia together was revealed to all: but to the government it meant the need for firmer authority, whereas to the radicals it signalled opportunities to destroy the existing order. Not surprisingly, the government and opposition alike viewed the Duma, not as a vehicle for reaching compromises, but as an arena of combat ... Russia had gained only a breathing spell.

QUESTIONS

What was the impact of 1905 on the Russian monarchy and their supporters?

Which group had been radicalised and how had they been radicalised?

From you own knowledge and the documents, what were the forces of political change at work before the October Manifesto?

[illegible]

Explain the strengths and limitations of this extract to explain the why the revolution of 1905 did not prevent the development of a revolutionary situation in the years which followed. Use other views in your response

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or printed text on the paper.

Name: _____

Unit 4 – Russian Revolution SAC 1

Friday 8th August 2008

Part B

A.o.S. 1 – Outcome 1: Revolutionary ideas, leaders, movements & events
1905 – October 1917
Graphic Analysis



a. What does the representation suggest the figure of Bolshevism is doing? (2 marks)

b. What details in the representation suggest criticism of Bolshevism? (2 marks)

c. Why might this representation have appeared in the Western press in 1917? (2 marks)

d. Using your knowledge and the representation, explain the nature of the Bolshevik Party – its organization and its ideology in October 1917. (6 marks)

e. Explain to what extent this representation presents a reliable view of the events of October 1917. In your response refer to different views of the October Revolution. (8 marks)

Name: _____

Unit 4 – Russian Revolution SAC 1

Wednesday 5th August 2009

**A.o.S. 1 – Outcome 1: Revolutionary ideas, leaders, movements & events
1905 – October 1917**

Part A: Visual Analysis



a. Identify the three characters in this cartoon and its likely year of publication? (4 marks)

b. What details in the representation suggest criticism of the Romanov rulers? (2 marks)

- [illegible]

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. A vertical margin line is present on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled document. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the page.

A.O.S. 1 – Outcome 1: Revolutionary ideas, leaders, movements & events: 1905 to October 1917



a. What does the graphic suggest about the reign of Nicholas II? (2 marks)

b. Identify the symbols that represented royalty in this graphic? (2 marks)

c. Briefly explain how each 'wind' challenged the reign of Nicholas II. (4 marks)

d. Using your knowledge, explain how it could be argued Nicholas II personally contributed to the demise of his reign. (4 marks)

e. To what extent is this representation useful in understanding the demise of the Old Regime? (8 marks)

VCE HISTORY --REVOLUTIONS

UNIT 3 The Russian Revolution

Primary evidence on Russia during the First World War

A. Extract from a Police Department Report in October 1916

"In the opinion of the spokesmen of the labour group of the Central War Industries' Committee* the industrial proletariat of the capital is on the verge of despair and it believes that the smallest outbreak, due to any pretext, will lead to uncontrollable riots, with thousands and tens of thousands of victims. Indeed, the stage for such outbreaks is more than set: the economic position of the masses...is distressing...Even if we assume that wages have increased 100%, the cost of living in the meantime has risen by an average of 300%. The impossibility of obtaining, even for cash, many foodstuffs and articles of prime necessity, the waste of time involved in spending hours waiting in line in front of stores, the increasing morbidity due to inadequate diet and insanitary lodgings (cold and dampness as a result of lack of coal and firewood) etc., all these conditions have created such a situation that the mass of industrial workers are quite ready to let themselves go to the wildest excesses of a hunger riot.

In addition to economic hardships the 'legal disabilities' of the working class have of late become 'intolerable and unbearable', the denial of the mere right to move freely from one factory to another, has reduced labour, in the opinion of the Social Democrats, to the state of mere cattle, good only for 'slaughter in war'. The prohibition of all labour meetings...the closing of trade unions...and so on make the labour masses, led by the more advanced and already revolutionary-minded elements, assume an openly hostile attitude towards the Government and protest with all the means at their disposal against the continuation of the War...A saying by one of the speakers at a meeting..."You must end the War if you do not know how to fight" has become the war-cry of the Petrograd Social Democrats.

The close relations between the workers of Petrograd and the army also indicate that the atmosphere at the front is disturbing, not to say revolutionary. The high cost of living and the shortages of foodstuffs from which soldiers' wives are the first to suffer, have been made known to the army by soldiers returning from leave...

Revolutionary circles, then, have no doubts that a revolution will begin soon. That its unmistakable precursors are already here, and that the Government will prove incapable of fighting against the revolutionary masses, which are the more dangerous because they consist largely of soldiers of former soldiers...

(From Florinsky, M. End of Russian Empire 1961, pp 165, 166)

*this was a non governmental body or zemgor set up in 1915 to help armaments production. Wide membership, including representatives from industrialists, zemstva and workers.

B. Miliukov the leader of the liberals in the Fourth Duma – (sat 1912 – 1914, suspended itself August 1914 and reassembled at Nicholas's request July 1915)

The gulf between us and the government has grown wider and has become impassable...We are telling this government as the declaration of the [Progressive] Bloc stated: We shall fight you; we shall fight with all legitimate means until you go...When the Duma insists that the rear must be organised for successful strugglethe government ...prefers chaos and disorganisation; what is this; stupidity or treason?

C. Ministerial Report late 1916

"The army in the rear and at the fighting line is full of elements, some of whom may become an active force of rebellion, while others may refuse to participate in punitive measures against mutineers. Should the former succeed in organising themselves properly, there would hardly be enough units in the Army to constitute a strong counter-revolutionary force to defend the government"

(From Cash, A., Russian Revolution, 1967, p. 46)

D. General Krymov to Duma Members

"The spirit of the army is such that new of a coup d'etat would be welcomed with joy. A revolution is imminent and we at the front feel it to be so. If you decide on such an extreme step we will support you. Clearly there is no other way..."

(From Kochan, L., and Abraham, R., Making of Modern Russia 1983, p. 285)

E. General Brusilov

"If I must choose between the Tsar and Russia, I shall march for Russia

(From Robtottom, J., Modern Russia, 1972, p. 57)

F.

Nicholas' Brother in law Grand Duke Alexander January 1917

"The Government is today the body which prepared the revolution; the people did not want it; but the Government does everything it can to increase the number of discontented, and succeeds admirably. We are witnessing an unprecedented scene; a revolution not from below, but from above..."

(From Halpern, A., in Russian Themes (eds. Kochan, M. and L.)

QUESTIONS

From Extract A

Identify the reasons why the Police Department considered a revolution might occur.

Why were the workers' grievances becoming politicised?

How reliable do you consider this source?

From Extract F.

Comment on the Grand Duke's assessment that a 'revolution from above' was occurring. Do any of the other extracts support his view? Explain in what ways they do or do not concur.

Using all the extracts

Is there a particular political ideology which can be identified as dominating revolutionary movement in 1916 – 1917? Explain your response.

Write a 200 word response as evaluation of the extent to which Nicholas has lost support by 1917.

VCE HISTORY –REVOLUTIONS

The Russian Revolution

Primary evidence on Russia during the First World War

Correction

A. Extract from a Police Department Report in October 1916

The police believe that a revolution might occur because of

Firstly

Economic hardships – potential for 'uncontrollable riots' due to despair

- a) Food – was scarce and costly and queues meant much time was wasted
- b) Hardship had led to an increase in deaths – due to poor diet, inadequate heating and unhygienic conditions,

Secondly

Political hardships and ferment

- a) "legal disabilities" their reversal of civil liberties – not allowed to move between workplaces –
- b) Trade unions banned
- c) Revolutionaries actively leading masses in anti government and anti war sentiment 'suggesting workers are as cattle for government slaughter

Thirdly

The relationship between the workers and the army.

- a) There is a "close relationship between the workers of Petrograd and the army
- b) The army may also become revolutionary as the conditions in the cities are reported by soldiers returning from leave to those on the Front.
- c) Many ex-soldiers are amongst the masses in the cities.

2. The workers' grievances are becoming politicised as the Bolsheviks are by 1916 leading the masses – the initial perception of them as traitors in 1914 has changed and they are gaining support. They are leading meetings with cries such as "You must end the war if you do not know how to fight" criticism of the government's organisation and involvement in the war.

3. This report would be reliable and the Police department and they would have both the resources of the gendarmes or police force of the city as well as intelligence of the Okhrana available to them. On the other hand, the report is based on information provided by the zemgor, a non government body set up by well intentioned bourgeois capitalists (industrialists, members of zemstva etc.) to help the war effort. – they had been spurned by the tsar and the court for their efforts. It is possible that they drew a pessimistic picture to try and force the government's position or indeed they were accurate and fearful of a revolution which would affect them and their interests.

F. Nicholas' Brother in law Grand Duke Alexander January 1917

Grand Duke Michael blames the government itself to the revolution hence it is a 'revolution from above' as they themselves through their actions have instigated the situation which has become intolerable to the people of Russia.

Certainly the documents all highlight the alienation of the government from wide sections of the people –

The army

In Document C the army is painted as being unable to have authority over sufficient troop numbers "to defend the government"

And Document D contends that a 'coup d'etat' would be welcomed by members of the armed forces because morale is so low.

The middle classes

Documents B and A highlight how the middle classes and conservative and liberals have become disillusioned with Russian government; the zemgor are worried of a revolution which will bring 'thousands and tens of thousands of victims'

The Politicians

And Miliukov, leader of the liberals in the Fourth Duma, speaks of the gulf between government the Duma and the people and frames the question which is unanswerable – that the behaviour of the government is both 'stupid' and treasonous in that it is working against the good of the state.

There would seem to be a prevailing anti government sentiment which is revealed by these documents. In particular they emphasise the revolutionary forces as primarily a response to worsening conditions rather than political ideology. The conditions for both the proletariat and the army are suggested as appalling and the impetus for revolution. The second common factor is that the documents suggest that the revolution is anti -government rather than anti Tsar, but the Tsar had allied himself so closely with the tradition supports of the crown – the conservative right wing landowners and court during the years 1906 – 1917, and the actions of Alexandra had brought the government into disrepute that the complaints cannot really tackle one without threatening the monarchy.

There is a suggestion that the Social Democrats are exploiting the disorder in the capital and also perhaps inadvertently the troops by encouraging "advanced and already revolutionary minded elements". However there is little to suggest that there is any planned organisation for a revolution of any particular end other than the cessation of war and a return to better living conditions.